

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims, please amend claims 5 and 12 as follows.

- 1-4. (canceled)
5. (currently amended) ~~Membrane active polyanions comprising styrene-maleic anhydride-based random copolymers capable of lysing mammalian cell membranes at pH 6.5.~~  
A process for delivering a biologically active compound to the cytoplasm of a cell comprising:
  - a) forming a membrane active styrene-maleic anhydride-based random copolymer capable of lysing mammalian cell membranes at pH 6.5;
  - b) contacting said cell with said biologically active compound and the styrene-maleic anhydride-based random copolymers such that the compound and the polymer are endocytosed by the cell.
6. (original) The polymer of claim 5 wherein hydrophobic groups are covalently linked to anhydride monomers in the polymer.
7. (original) The polymer of claim 6 wherein the hydrophobic groups are selected from the list consisting of: hydrophobic esters and hydrophobic amides.
8. (original) The polymer of claim 7 wherein a functional group is covalently linked to an anhydride monomer in the polymer.
- 9-11. (canceled)
12. (currently amended) ~~Membrane active polyanions comprising vinyl ether-maleic anhydride-based alternating copolymers capable of lysing mammalian cell membranes at pH 6.5.~~  
A process for delivering a biologically active compound to the cytoplasm of a cell comprising:
  - a) forming a membrane active vinyl ether-maleic anhydride-based alternating copolymer capable of lysing mammalian cell membranes at pH 6.5;
  - b) contacting said cell with said biologically active compound and the vinyl ether-maleic anhydride-based alternating copolymer such that the compound and the polymer are endocytosed by the cell.
13. (original) The polymer of claim 12 wherein the vinyl ether is selected from the group comprising alkyl vinyl ether and aryl vinyl ether.

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14. (original) The polymer of claim 13 wherein the alkyl vinyl ether is selected from the group consisting of: propyl vinyl ether and butyl vinyl ether.
15. (original) The polymer of claim 12 wherein hydrophobic groups are covalently linked to anhydride monomers in the polymer.
16. (original) The polymer of claim 15 wherein the hydrophobic groups are selected from the group consisting of: hydrophobic esters and hydrophobic amides.
17. (original) The polymer of claim 12 wherein a functional group is covalently linked to an anhydride monomer in the polymer.
- 18-20. (canceled)

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